

August 6, 2012

**Los Angeles County
Department of Children and Family Services
Time-Limited Family Reunification**

History:

Many DCFS neglect cases were opened due to excessive and sometimes dangerous substance abuse in the home by parents or caregivers. These types of risk factors made homes unsafe for children. The children were often detained and placed out of the home; with relatives or in foster homes or with Foster Family Agencies.

In November 2005, DCFS and the Department of Public Health became partners to provide substance abuse assessment and treatment for DCFS clients. Funding was provided through the Promoting Safe and Stable Family's grant (PSSF) Time-Limited Family Reunification. The average number of children in placement within each SPA was used to determine funding allocations.

Program Objectives:

To expedite the reunification of families, reduce the recurrence of maltreatment of children and the reduction of substance abuse.

Program Requirements:

- Children are placed out-of-the home for not more than 15 months.
- The case status is Family Reunification.
- Families can not be eligible for other types of programs that provide treatment such as private insurance, or other county sponsored programs (i.e.: DPSS, DMH, or Probation).
- Children cannot be placed with a parent.

Process:

DCFS has partnered with the Department of Public Health and their network of contracted CASC and Providers to provide alcohol and other drug assessment and treatment services to our clients.

DCFS Social Workers refer clients to Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC) for drug and alcohol assessments.

CASC conducts an assessment for the type of treatment a client needs, i.e. residential or out-patient services using the Addiction Severity Index (ASI).

CASC then sends clients to local contracted providers for treatment.

Characteristics:

There are nine CASC agencies county wide (see attachments: List of CASC providers and Fact Sheet Community Assessment Service Centers).

There are 10 treatment provider agencies with 26 contracts; Out-Patient and Residential sites, county wide. Some sites have both Out-Patient and Residential services.

Our DCFS Social Workers refer an average of 80 to 140 clients per month for program eligibility evaluation; about 80% to 90% of them qualify for the program. The average number of clients receiving treatment services (out-patient and residential) each month is 136.

Program Outcomes:

Last Fall 2011 DCFS provided a presentation of the TLFR program with the Department of Public Health at the National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Courts in National Harbor, Maryland.

Please see attachments:



PSSF-TLFR Families Served



Results of Treatment

Providers Report	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10
Shown for Treatment	369	547	463
Completed Treatment Plan	162	167	186

Reunification Reports:

- For fiscal year 2007-08, 77* participants were reunified with their children.
- For fiscal year 2009-10, approximately 71** participants were reunified with their children.

*Data received from DCFS CWS-CMS system;

**Data received from Treatment Providers

19



PSSF-TLFR Families Served



Client Results – FY 2009-10

- Treatment lasted: 1 month to 14 months.
- Average length of treatment: 6 months.
- Age of clients was from : 49 to 20 years old.
- The median age of participant: 31.

Source: Data received from DCFS CWS-CMS system

20



PSSF-TLFR Families Served



Client/Child Results – FY 2009-10

- 58 percent of the parents who went to treatment, had their children returned home, (HOP).
- Of the children who did not go back home they went to Adoptive, Relative or Foster Homes.

Source: Data received from DCFS CWS-CMS system